

REMARKS

The present amendment and remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action dated February 26, 2003.

Applicants affirm the prior provisional telephone election of the Group I claims 1-12 and 24 for prosecution in this application.

Claims 1 - 24 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 13 - 23 stand withdrawn in view of the above election. Therefore, claims 1 - 12 and 24 are active, with claims 1 and 24 being independent. Claims 1 - 11 and 24 have been rejected for obviousness under 35 USC § 103(a) based upon a combination of Yamashita et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,967,782) with Smith, Jr. (U.S. Pat. 3,207,127), Kameyama (U.S. 4,655,162) or Hillman et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,856,456), and claim 12 has been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended by this amendment.

For the following reasons, this application, as amended, should be allowed and passed to issue.

As presently amended, independent claims 1 and 24 include recitation of subject matter of objected to claim 12. Specifically, each of independent claims 1 and 24 now recites the substrate mounting means as including means for vertically mounting a disk-shaped substrate comprising a pair of oppositely facing major surfaces to be simultaneously dip coated by immersion in a liquid contained in the dip coating vessel.


As the Examiner has recognized, such feature of vertical mounting of a dual-sided substrate (or workpiece) for *simultaneous* dip coating of *both* sides thereof is neither disclosed or rendered obvious by the references of record. The present amendment therefore obviates each of the Examiner's stated rejections for obviousness of claims 1 - 12 and 24 under 35 USC § 103 (a) predicated on various combinations of Yamashita et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,967,782) with one of Smith, Jr. (U.S. Pat. 3,207,127), Kameyama (U.S. 4,655,162), and Hillman et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,856,456). Therefore, it is urged that independent claim 1 and claims 2-12 dependent therefrom, as well as independent claim 24, define novel and unobvious subject matter over the prior art of record and are thus allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as presently amended, is in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 21, 2003